



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Northeastern Area  
State and Private Forestry

180 Canfield Street  
Morgantown, WV 26505-3101

File Code: 3400

Date: July 10, 2009

Ms. Patty Chizmadia  
Natural Resources Specialist  
Earle Naval Weapons Station  
201 Route 34 South, Building C-23  
Colts Neck, NJ 07722-5081

Dear Patty:

On June 17, 2009, I conducted an aerial detection survey for gypsy moth-caused tree defoliation at Earle Naval Weapons Station. I am pleased to report that no defoliation was detected at, or in the vicinity of, your site. However, a large amount of heavy tree mortality (51-100%) was detected. We would like to conduct some ground surveys at Earle NWS to further pin point this mortality and better quantify the amount of mortality.

It will be difficult to quantify the impacts of this year's 5896 acre gypsy moth suppression project since gypsy moth populations have collapsed throughout most of the region primarily due to the fungal pathogen, *Entomophaga maimaiga*. This pathogen is usually prevalent during wet and cool Springs like the one that we just experienced. The impacts of *Entomophaga maimaiga* have been highly variable from year to year and are difficult to predict.

We will be conducting gypsy moth egg mass surveys in the Fall in all the treatment areas. I will coordinate this survey and the mortality survey with you.

Please contact me at the above number if you have any questions regarding this aerial survey letter.

Sincerely,

RODNEY L. WHITEMAN  
Forester  
Forest Health Protection

Enclosure

Cc: Joe Zoltowski, NJDA  
George Koeck, NJDF  
Robert Lueckel, MFO

RLW/blm

